



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 7, 2000

H.R. 4021 **Giant Sequoia Groves Protection and Management Act of 2000**

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on April 5, 2000

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4021 would have no significant effect on the federal budget over the 2000-2005 period. Implementing H.R. 4021 would affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go-procedures would apply. We estimate, however, that any such impact would be negligible in any single year. H.R. 4021 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 4021 would direct the Forest Service to fund a scientific assessment of the giant sequoia groves in California and prohibit the President from designating certain lands as national monuments until 90 days after the study is completed. The bill would authorize the Forest Service to spend up to \$800,000 for an 18-month study by the National Academy of Sciences on the scientific basis for managing giant sequoias. For the purposes of this estimate, CBO assumes that the Forest Service would use funds that otherwise would be spent for roads and trails. These funds are derived largely from timber receipts and are available without further appropriation. CBO expects that changing the purpose for which those mandatory funds could be spent would change the timing of outlays relative to current law, but would have no significant effect on direct spending in any single year.

Provisions delaying possible designations of lands within the Sequoia National Forest as a national monument could, under some conditions, affect offsetting receipts from existing timber contracts and other federal expenditures. Based on information from the Forest Service, however, CBO expects that such effects are unlikely. Existing contracts on some of the lands under consideration for designation currently generate net offsetting receipts of about \$1 million a year from the sale of federal timber resources. Implementing this bill would affect those receipts only if, under current law, the President otherwise would have modified those contracts as part of a designation of a national monument. CBO has no basis for predicting whether the President would make such a designation under current law or whether a designation would occur within the time period covered by the bill. Based on past monument declarations under the current Administration, however, we expect that the existing contracts would be largely unaffected by any designation, at least in the near term.

Hence, we estimate that implementing this restriction on the President's authority would have no significant effect on direct spending in the next five years.

The CBO staff contact is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.